

CAPE HORN S&G ALLOTMENT

2002 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

This is the Annual Operating Instructions for the 2002 grazing season for the Cape Horn Allotment and will be considered part of the terms and conditions of the grazing permit.

I. APPROVED USE

PERMITTEE	NO'S	DATES	ANIMAL MOS
Dennis Lehmann	1000 Sheep	6/20-10/1*	3430
	950 Sheep	7/16-10/1	2480

* These dates are tentative. Range readiness will be monitored to determine if the on-date is appropriate, also utilization levels will be monitored to determine if the off-date is appropriate.

II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

BAND	UNIT NAME	DATES	REMARKS
1	Dry/Kelly Creek	6/20 - 7/17	trucked in
1	Lower Swamp/Vader Crk	7/18 - 8/3	between Marsh & highway
2	Valley Creek	6/20 - 7/6	trailed in
2	Lower Swamp/Vader Crk	7/7 - 8/3	between Marsh & highway
1&2	Cape Horn Creek	8/6 - 8/13	lambs off early Aug.
1&2	Beaver Creek	8/14 - 8/29	
1&2	Knapp Creek	8/30 - 9/14	above Station
1&2	Swamp/Vader Creek	9/15 - 10/1	trailed off

The **Idaho State Bowhunters** will hold their annual Jamboree at Lower Swamp Creek Area **July 19-21**, making it necessary to keep the sheep band on the east side of the highway and west of Marsh Creek from July 15-24 to allow for set up and clean up for the event.

III. PERMITTEE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The dates of use and sequence of use may be changed due to forage and/or weather conditions. If for these reasons, or others, you wish to make changes in the dates of use or grazing sequence as described in this plan of use, please discuss it with us before you do so.

Proper distribution of sheep bands is very important to proper forage utilization. Proper distribution can be attained through routing, choice of bed grounds, salting, and herding. Salt should be placed away from all heavily used trails, all roads, all natural concentration areas, and at least 300 yards from any running water or live spring. Sheep handling under the "teepee" system of herding, assuring herds are constantly tended, once-over grazing, and not bedding more than one night in the same place during the season will help route sheep to unused grazing areas and prevent them from over-utilizing stream bottoms or other riparian areas. Sheep will not be bedded within 300 yards of any running stream or live spring.

Sheep that die from a contagious disease, or that die at a location where they may contaminate water or be a public nuisance, must be properly disposed of.

A Forest Special Order is in effect (as of January 1, 1996) - Any hay or straw used in association with this permit, will be certified and tagged as noxious weed, or noxious weed seed free as directed by the order.

At the end of the grazing season, we would appreciate it if you would please let us know what your actual use was for the season. We will mail you an actual use form to fill out after the end of the grazing season. This information is one of the many forms of data used to determine how the range is responding to the management practices applied to it.

IV. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Improvements on the Cape Horn Allotment will be maintained prior to livestock entry into the unit being grazed.

Each individual permittee is responsible for maintenance of certain Forest Service range improvements on the allotment, as listed in their grazing permits. The range improvements are to be maintained to Forest Service standards according to the following schedule.

NUMBER	NAME OF IMPROVEMENT	DATE TO BE MAINTAINED
	All improvements on all units must be maintained before the livestock enter that unit.	

VI. MONITORING UTILIZATION STANDARDS

The Forest Service will be monitoring utilization levels during the grazing season. The monitoring will primarily be in riparian areas. When utilization levels have been met for the area, the permittee will move the livestock to the next unit or grazing area; or if utilization levels have been met throughout the allotment, livestock will be moved from the allotment.

Based on Section 7 consultations with National Marine Fisheries Service on grazing activities on the Cape Horn Allotment, the following are allowable use standards for key locations and grazing areas:

UTILIZATION STANDARDS AND END OF SEASON CRITERIA

KEY STREAM & REACH	GREENLINE STUBBLE HEIGHT
Marsh, Beaver, Cape Horn, Valley Creeks (all reaches)	6 "
Thatcher, Swamp, E. Fork Valley, Winnemucca (within allot)	6 "
Knapp Creek (mouth to junction of Road 032 and Trail 034)	6 "
Camp, Asher, Kelly Creeks (lower 1/2 mile of each)	6 "
All other riparian areas along perennial streams	4 "

AREA	ALLOWABLE USE IN PERCENT
Upland Ecosystems and Other Riparian	45%
Woody Browse (new leader growth)	50%

Riparian areas will be used as the key area for monitoring forage utilization levels. In riparian ecosystems grazing use is limited to the extent that retains a minimum of 4" to 6" of forage stubble along the stream greenline based on the entire growing season plant production (measured at seasons end). Additional allowable use is set at 45 percent by weight on upland grasslands. Use on new leader growth of upland woody browse is prescribed at 50 percent.

VII. NEW CONSTRUCTION

The following improvements will be investigated for feasibility and need on the allotment to mitigate potential impacts of sheep crossing of streams:

NO	NAME	DATE COMPLETED BY	RESPONSIBILITIES
	Beaver Crk, Knapp Crk & Winnemucca Crk Sheep Bridges	to be determined if bridges needed	

VIII. BILLING INFORMATION

Grazing fees are to be paid to Lockbox, San Francisco, by the date specified on the Bill for Collection and in advance of sheep entry onto the Salmon and Challis National Forest.

Grazing fees for the 2001 grazing season are \$0.27 per Head Month.

IX. MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures will be adhered to in order to keep grazing use on this allotment consistent with a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" finding (Marsh Creek Watershed Biological Assessment, March 3, 1994 Addendum, April 1995 NMFS concurrence; Biological Assessment for Grazing Annual Operation Plans for the Valley Creek Watershed Analysis area, March 18, 1994; 1996 AOP Consultation with NMFS with updated PACFISH screen):

- A. Implementation of the above mentioned utilization standards and herding/routing system of management, herd bedding requirements.
- B. The following areas will be closed to crossing, watering, and streamside grazing on August 15. These areas are those currently used by chinook salmon for spawning.
 - 1) All of Marsh Creek downstream from Knapp Creek/Marsh Creek confluence within the allotment boundaries.
 - 2) Knapp Creek from it's confluence with Marsh Creek upstream for 1 1/2 miles ending at the sheep bridge along the historic stock driveway located in T12N, R12E, SWNW Sec. 18.
 - 3) All of Cape Horn Creek from it's confluence with Marsh Creek within the allotment boundaries.
 - 4) All of Valley Creek from the allotment boundary upstream to it's confluence with Summit Creek.

- C. Sheep bands will cross Knapp Creek, Winnemucca Creek and Upper Beaver Creek only at locations approved by the Forest Service. Preapproval of these locations will be necessary as well as an examination of designated crossings prior to use during chinook spawning season to ensure that salmon are not using the crossing spot.
- D. Maintenance of improvements in place at the start the grazing season, which are needed to make this grazing system work, will be done before livestock enter any unit dependent on the improvements.

I have reviewed and accepted these Annual Operating Instructions for the 2002 grazing season. Any changes to these Annual Operating Instructions must be approved by the District Ranger.

PERMITTEE

DATE

FOREST OFFICER

DATE